

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION USUN  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6189

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE  
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 15 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW

1. SEPTEMBER 15 SYRIAN PRESS MAINTAINED TONE OF OPTIMISM THAT SITUATION IN LEBANON EVOLVING FAVORABLY. AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED: "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON ROAD TO SETTLEMENT TO LEBANESE CRISIS. PRES. ASAD RECEIVES PIERRE GEMAYEL. LEBANESE AND ARAB QUARTERS FILLED WITH OPTIMISM AS RESULT OF DAMASCUS MEETINGS."

2. IN WHAT HAS BECOME STANDARD PROGRAM FOR VISITING LEBANESE LEADERS, PRES. ASAD, AND FONMIN KHADDAM BEFORE HIM, RECEIVED PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL FOR CONSULTATIONS ON LEBANESE CRISIS. IN STATEMENT TO SANA, GEMAYEL STRESSED THAT  
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LEBANESE FIGHTING WAS HARMFUL TO ALL SIDES AND PARTICULARLY

TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE. HE CALLED ON ALL SINCERE LEBANESE AND ARABS TO CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOMING CRISIS. GEMAYEL LEFT FOR CAIRO AFTERNOON SEPT. 14.

3. FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER SALAM LEFT DAMASCUS FOR CAIRO EVENING SEPT 14 AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHALYFAWI IN AFTERNOON. IN STATEMENT TO SANA BEFORE DEPARTURE, SALAM SAID VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ASAD HAD MADE HIM MORE OPTIMISTIC.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT KHADDAM HAD RECEIVED AL REPRESENTATIVE AL-KHOLI AFTERNOON SEPT 14 PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR BEIRUT. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO PRESS, AL-KHOLI MET WITH MR GHONEIM AND OTHER ALF COMMANDERS THEN BEGAN CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS FACTIONS TOWARD SETTLING CRISIS.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARIAN BUREAU HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BEIRUT, CHAIRED BY SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAD, DURING WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WOULD BE HELD ON ITS APPOINTED DATE (SEPT. 23).

6. PRINCIPAL THEMES IN PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS AS FOLLOWS: AL-BATH NOTED THAT SALAH KHALAF'S ADMISSION OF CONSPIRACY IN LEBANON, AIMED AT SPLITTING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND SYRIA, OPENED POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTING PLOT BY RESTORING "THE NATURAL ALLIANCE BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE RESISTANCE." AL-THAWRAH OPINED THAT THE POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD RESOLVING LEBANESE CRISIS WERE THE RESULT OF SINCERE SYRIAN-ARAB EFFORTS WHICH "INCREASED OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR NATION'S ABILITY TO THWART THE ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST SCHEME." TISHRIIN AGAIN ATTACKED EGYPT, PROCLAIMING THAT "THE WILL OF THE ARABS" WAS STRONGER THAN EITHER SADAT OR SINAI ACCORD WHICH COULD NOT POSSIBLY SURVIVE.

MURPHY

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